

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 01350 232018Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
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P R 231955Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6177
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS EWWT BR OVIP (BLACKWELL, ROBERT J.)
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN OFFICIAL ON MARITIME MATTERS
INCLUDING SEA-LAND

REF: RIO 0670 B. STATE 042728 C. RIO 0784

1. ON FEBRUARY 23, MARATT AND ECON/COMM OFFICER HAD INFORMAL LUNCHEON MEETING IN BRASILIA WITH COUNSELOR HELCIO TAVARES PIRES, CHIEF OF DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS OF FONMIN. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS PROPOSED APRIL 3-6 VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLACKWELL TO BRAZIL AND THE SEA-LAND APPLICATION TO ENTER BRAZILIAN TRADE WITH THIRTY-FIVE FOOT CONTAINERS, WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEFORE CIDETI FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION ON FEBRUARY 24 (REF C).

2. AT THE OUTSET, PIRES WAS PRESENTED AN AIDE MEMOIRE SETTING FORTH THE DATES AND NAMES OF DELEGATES TO ACCOMPANY BLACKWELL TO BRAZIL (REF B) AND THE PURPOSE OF THESE MARITIME TALKS (PARA TWO, REF A). MARATT INDICATED THAT BLACKWELL WOULD LIKE TO VISIT MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AS WELL AS PRESIDENT OF CIDETI IN
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 01350 232018Z

BRASILIA ON HIS UPCOMING TRIP, TO WHICH PRES REPLIED THAT THIS SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM PROVIDED THAT THE OFFICIALS WERE IN BRASILIA. PIRES SAID HE WOULD STUDY THE AIDE MEMOIRE AND CONTACT THE EMBASSY TO FIRM UP PREPARATIONS.

3. MARATT/EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT USG INTERPRETATION OF RECIPROCITY WAS BROADER THAN THE "THIRTY-FIVE FOOT CONTAINERS", WHICH THE

BRAZILIANS THUS FAR HAVE INDICATED AS THEIR INTERPRETATION OF THE TERM "RECIPROCITY" AS IT APPEARS UNDER BRAZILIAN LAW 6288 OF DECEMBER 11, 1975, AND DECREE NO. 80.145 OF AUGUST 15, 1977. WE ALSO SAID THAT SEA-LAND HAD INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE AMENABLE TO A TRANSITIONAL TIME FRAME TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS WITH FORTY FOOT (ISO) CONTAINERS, SAY SEVEN TO TEN YEARS. PIRES REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE IF SEA-LAND WERE NOT PERMITTED TO OPERATE IN BRAZIL WITH ITS THIRTY-FIVE FOOTERS AS SEA-LAND HAD AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD, WITH A GREAT DEAL OF EXPERIENCE. (COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST POSITIVE SIGN WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM A GOB OFFICIAL CONCERNING THE SEA-LAND APPLICATIONS.)

4. PIRES INDICATED THAT HE IS PREPARING HIS RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SEA-LAND, WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE CIDETI MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT CIDETI -PROBABLY WOULD NOT- REACH A DECISION ON THE 24TH BUT WOULD MERELY STUDY AND DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER. HE SAID THAT ONCE A DECISION WAS REACHED IT WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE "DIARIO OFFICIAL" WITHIN A FEW DAYS, AT WHICH TIME IT WOULD BECOME LAW.

5. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN DAILY CONTACT WITH PIRES ON SEA-LAND ISSUE SINCE FEBRUARY 21, AND EMBOFF AND MARATT HAD BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH CIDETI CHIEF COMMANDANTE ABREU ON FEBRUARY 23 AT WHICH WE AGAIN MENTIONED US CONCERN.

CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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